



PATENT APPLICATION

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re application of

Docket No: Q68472

Kouichi HIRASAWA

Appln. No.: 10/073,984

Group Art Unit: 2854

Confirmation No.: 6106

Examiner: Dave A. GHATT

Filed: February 14, 2002

For: PRINTING PAPER AND METHOD FOR PRINTING

SUBMISSION OF APPEAL BRIEF

MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith please find an Appeal Brief. A check for the statutory fee of \$330.00 is attached. The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Raja Saliba

Registration No. 43,078

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37

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Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37, Appellant submits the following:

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Attorney Docket No.: Q68472

1. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the Assignee, Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd. An Assignment was filed in US Application No. 09/547,877 on April 12, 2000, and recorded at Reel 010739, Frame 0667. US Application No. 09/547,877 is the patent to this application and is now US Patent No. 6,737,136 issued on May 18, 2004.

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II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants, Appellant's legal representatives, and the assignee in this application are not aware of any other appeals or interferences which directly affect, can be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 17-29 are all the claims involved in this appeal and are set forth in the attached Appendix.

Claims 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popat (USP 5,997,683)¹ [“Popat ‘683”] in view of Stewart (US 6,030,134) [“Stewart”].

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popat (USP 5,853,837) [“Popat ‘837”] in view of Stewart and further in view of Shingu et al. (US 5,824,178) [“Shingu”].

Claims 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popat ‘837 in view of Stewart and Bishop et al. (US 5,571,587) [“Bishop”].

¹ The Examiner references U.S. Patent 5,997,683 in the rejection and appears to rely on portions of the disclosure in this patent to reject the claims. However, certain parts of the Examiner’s rejection, in particular the rejection of claim 23 at page 2 that identifies reference numerals 108 and 208 and the rejection of claim 27 with reference to certain features in Fig. 4, do not appear in the ‘683 patent. Appellant believes the Examiner intended to rely on U.S. Patent No. 5,853,837 as well as (or instead of) U.S. Patent 5,997,683. Appellant notes that both U.S. Patent 5,997,683 and on U.S. Patent No. 5,853,837 are both issued to Popat.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Appellants filed a Preliminary Amendment on February 14, 2002, and canceled claims 1-16. Appellants filed an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 on September 29, 2003, in response to the Office Action (paper no. 4) mailed May 27, 2003, wherein claim 17 was amended and claims 21-29 were added. Appellants filed an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 on April 2, 2004, to the Final Office Action (paper no. 8) mailed on January 2, 2004, wherein Appellants submitted proposed amendments to claims 17, 24 and 27 and the cancellation of claim 23. In the Advisory Action (paper no. 20040526) mailed on June 3, 2004, the Examiner just stated that the application was not in condition for allowance without any additional information about whether the proposed amendments would be entered or not. A telephonic interview was conducted on June 10, 2004 (paper no. 20040621) which resulted in the issuance of a Supplemental Advisory Action (paper no. 20040621) mailed on June 25, 2004. In the Supplemental Advisory Action, the Examiner maintained the rejections of claims 17-29 and did not enter the proposed amendments.

Appellants filed a Notice of Appeal on June 25, 2004, to appeal from the Final Office Action (paper no. 8) rejecting claims 17-29.

V. SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMED SUBJECT

This invention relates to a method of printing an image on a printing paper (10) by a printer (22) (Specification at page 3, lines 10-11, Fig. 3) so that a print having no margins can be formed (Specification at page 4, lines 1-2). One object of the invention is to eliminate defects on a printed image caused in the conveyance process (Specification at page 1, lines 16-22).

One embodiment of the present invention (claim 17) provides a method of printing an image on printing paper (10) by conveying the printing paper (10) from an accommodating portion (24) to a recording device (28) by a conveying device (25) by nipping the margins (L_4) of the printing paper (10) (Specification at page 8, lines 10-22, Fig. 3); printing an image on the printing paper (10) by the recording device (28) (specification at page 9, lines 12-16, Fig. 1); and conveying the printing paper (10) from the recording device (28) to a discharge portion (26) by the conveying device (25) by nipping the margins (L_4) of the printing paper (10) (Specification at page 9, lines 16-25). The printing paper (10) includes at least one printing portion (12) and margins (L_4), and a print is formed by detaching the printing portion (12) from the printing paper (10) (Specification at page 10, lines 1-3, Fig. 1). In addition, conveying the printing paper (10) from the accommodating portion (24) to the recording device is performed by nipping the paper at substantially spaced apart locations (margins L_4) so as to avoid the at least one printing portion (12) of the printing paper (10) (Specification at page 9, lines 21-25).

The longitudinal margins (L_4) allow the printing paper (10) to be conveyed more reliably and the formation of defects on the image portion can be prevented (Specification at page 9, line 21 -25).

In another non-limiting embodiment (claim 23), at least one intermittent cut line is formed by alternating a plurality of cut portions (40) and a plurality of separating portions (42) (Specification at page 10, lines 20-23, Fig. 4). The at least one intermittent cut line (40/42) is formed along an orthogonal direction to a conveying direction (FR) of the printing paper (10) within the recording device (28) and a continuous cut line (20) extends in a longitudinal direction of the printing paper (10) and orthogonal to the at least one intermittent cut line (Fig. 4). This feature is advantageous because it prevents a printing portion (12) from being detached while the printing paper is conveyed during printing (Specification at page 11, lines 10-11).

In another non-limiting embodiment (claim 27), the recording device (28) prints on at least one printing portion (12) of the printing paper (10) such that the printed image traverses at least one of the intermittent cut line (40/42) and the continuous cut line (20). That is, the width L_1 of the printing area (13) is wider than the width L_2 of the printing (detached) portion (12) by a margin L_3 (Specification at page 5, line 21 to page 6, line 3). Thus, the completed prints, once detached, do not have margins (Specification at page 10, lines 1-3).

In another non-limiting embodiment (claim 26), the overall thickness T_1 of a first printing paper (10, Fig. 9A) is substantially equal to that of a second printing paper (10, Fig. 9B), with at least two layers (18, 14, Fig. 9A) having a substantially different thickness than the corresponding layers (18, 14, Fig. 9B) of the second printing paper (Specification at page 13, line 23 to page 14, line 2).

In another non-limiting embodiment (claim 18), by setting a predetermined value for the thickness (T_5) of a printing material (18), a thickness ($T_1-(T_5+T_3)$) of a base material (14), and a

thickness (T_3) of an adhesive layer (16), a predetermined value is set for the nipping pressure at which the margins (L_4) are nipped by the conveying device (25) (Specification at page 13, lines 15-17, Fig. 9A). This allows for the nipping pressure of the conveying device (25) to be uniform in order to smoothly and reliably convey the printing paper (10) (Specification at page 13, lines 16-18).

In another non-limiting embodiment (claim 29), the printing paper (10) is configured for use with a sublimation type heat transfer system recording device (Specification at page 14, lines 15-16).

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Whether claims 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, and 29 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Popat '683 (or Popat '837) and Stewart.
2. Whether claim 18 is unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Popat '837 (or Popat '683), Stewart and Shingu.
3. Whether claims 24 and 26 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Popat '837, Stewart and Bishop.

VII. ARGUMENT

A special feature of Appellant's invention is that, “[i]f at the time of conveying the printing paper, a portion of a printing paper with an image thereon is nipped, defects may be formed on the image. Therefore, it is preferable to provide margins for nipping.” Specification at page 1, lines, 19-22. Clearly, in the context of printing images, such as photographs, such defects are extremely undesirable.

Accordingly, Appellant's invention resolves this problem by ensuring that the nipping is performed outside the image area (*i.e.*, the printing portion) so that when the printing portion is detached after printing, the resulting structure will have no scaring as a result of the nipping activity.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popat '683 (or Popat '837) in view of Stewart.

Claims 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 28

In the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed on September 29, 2003, responding to Office Action (paper no. 4), Appellant defined the embodiment in claim 17 more particularly, in by clarifying that the “nipping [of] the printing paper [is] at substantially spaced apart locations so as to avoid nipping the at least one printing portion of the printing paper.”

In the Final Office Action (paper no. 8) the Examiner, in the rejection of claims 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, and 29 in view of Popat '683 (or Popat '837) and Stewart, acknowledges that “Popat does not teach the step of “nipping the printing paper at substantially spaced apart locations.” Final Office Action at page 3. However, the grounds of rejection go on to state:

Stewart teaches a printer similar to that of Popat. As illustrated in Figure 5, Stewart teaches the step of nipping printing paper 18 at substantially spaced apart locations. To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the feeding method of Stewart in the a [sic] method of Popat, in order to avoid adversely impinging on the printing portion, as taught in the Abstract of Stewart.

Final Office Action at page 3.

As set forth in the Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure (“MPEP”):

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

MPEP at Section 2143 (emphasis added). Appellant submits that the grounds of rejection do not satisfy at least the first criteria that the prior art provide some suggestion or motivation to make the alleged modification. As the Federal Circuit reminded us, the USPTO is held to a rigorous standard when trying to show that an invention would have been obvious in view of the combination of two or more references. *See, In re Lee*, 277 F.3d 1338, 1343, 61 USPQ2d 1430, 1433 (Fed. Cir. 2002), *citing, e.g., In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 999, 50 USPQ2d 1614, 1617 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (“Our case law makes clear that the best defense against the subtle but powerful attraction of a hindsight-based obviousness analysis is rigorous application of the requirement for a showing of the teaching or motivation to combine prior art references.”).

The Federal Circuit goes on to emphasize that the “need for specificity pervades this authority.” *In re Lee*, 277 F.3d at 1343, 61 USPQ2d at 1433 (emphasis added) (*citing In re Kotzab*, 217 F.3d 1365, 1371, 55 USPQ2d 1313, 1317 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (“particular findings must

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be made as to the reason the skilled artisan, with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would have selected these components for combination in the manner claimed”).

Appellant respectfully submits that the current grounds of rejection do not satisfy the Federal Circuit’s rigorous standard for demonstrating that the claimed invention would have been obvious in view of the combination of Popat ‘683 or Popat ‘837 in view of Stewart.

In fact, rather than teach or suggest to one skilled in the art to modify the printing method disclosed by Popat ‘683 or Popat ‘837 as set forth in the grounds of rejection, Stewart would *lead away* from such a modification. That is, Stewart at most would teach the skilled artisan to remove or withdraw the central rollers (*i.e.*, A₂-A₄, see Fig. 4) only in the case of edible paper (see Abstract), and certainly not in the case where one uses paper for printing business cards or labels as disclosed in Popat ‘837 and Popat ‘683.

Consider, first, that Stewart relates to problems identified as being *unique* to the printing on *edible paper* placed on a substrate and having desirable characteristics for decorating iced cakes. Stewart explains in connection with printing on edible paper:

In this regard, a conventional printer typically includes a driven roller and a tension roller array which cooperate to grip the paper therebetween and propel the paper lengthwise through the paper path. The tension roller array typically includes a plurality of tension rollers spaced across the width of the paper path. The tension roller array also typically includes one or more bias mechanisms, such as springs, which independently or collectively urge the tension rollers toward the driven rollers. The outboard-most tension rollers will engage the lateral peripheral edges of the paper, while the remaining or center tension rollers are to engage the central portion of the paper. When edible paper is the media to be transported through the paper path, impingement thereof by the center rollers (as brought about due to the bias mechanisms) is determined to be a major cause of damage or distortion of the

paper. *To this end, and in accordance with the principles of the present invention, the printer is modified such that one or more of the central tension rollers do not adversely impinge the edible paper.* Such a modification can be accomplished either directly, such as by removal of the desired central tension roller(s), or indirectly, such as by overcoming or removing the bias mechanism(s) associated with the desired central tension roller(s). At least one, if not both, of the outboard rollers and associated bias mechanisms, are, however, left in place so as to propel the paper along the paper path by impingement along the peripheral lateral edge(s) of the paper, but with little or no impingement of the central surface of the edible paper.

Stewart at column 2, lines 20-48 (emphasis added). Therefore, Stewart is only concerned with impinging *edible* sheet portion 16, which can be easily damaged or dislodged due to its unique characteristics. Appellant further notes that each of the claims requires the use of edible paper.

On the other hand, Stewart is entirely *silent* about any problems encountered by having the tension roller array gripping the central portion of the *label sheets* disclosed in either Popat reference. Clearly, one skilled in the art would not go through the trouble of removing the center rollers in order to print on the label sheets of the Popat patents, since there is no disclosed advantage to justify this modification with respect to these sheets. To the contrary, it could conceivably result in inferior conveyance of the label sheet through the printer that was originally designed to grip the paper across its entire width.

In view of the foregoing differences, Appellant submits that claim 17 and its dependent claims are allowable.

Claim 23

With respect to claim 23, the Examiner in the Final Office Action states:

Popat ['837] teaches in Figured [sic] 3 and 4, an intermittent line 208 orthogonal to the feeding direction and a continuous line 180 orthogonal to the one intermittent line 208, the lines 208 and 108 not cut through the base material.

Final Office Action page 3. Appellant disagrees.

None of the applied references teach the arrangement of the intermittent and continuous cut lines in combination as recited in claim 23. Popat '837 refers to substantially cut lines and through cut lines, neither of which is an intermittent cut line (col. 2, lines 57-60). Popat '837 emphasizes that substantially cut lines and through cut lines is preferred over microperforations as shown in Fig. 2 of the reference (*see* col. 1, lines 22-26). Indeed, even Bishop fails to disclose this feature, but instead discloses that cut lines in *both* directions are perforation lines (*see* column 4, lines 20-27). The additional feature recited in claim 23 is advantageous in that it prevents a printing portion from being detached while the printing paper is conveyed and provides high detachability and an eye-pleasing appearance of the printing portion after being torn.

Claim 27

With respect to claim 27, the Examiner, in the Final Office Action states:

[I]nsofar as this step is broadly recited, the applicant should note that Figure 4 of the primary reference Popat teaches identical images that traverse several of the intermittent cut lines, which is enough to meet the requirements of this claim..

Final Office Action at page 4. Appellant disagrees.

While Fig. 4 of Popat '837 discloses multiple images (indicia), each image is printed *within* the perforations. Therefore, the reference does not teach or suggest printing and image "such that the printed image *traverses* at least one of the intermittent cut line and the continuous

cut line. More specifically, as with Popat '683, Popat '837 *suggests* that printing an image that traverses a weakened portion would result in a substantially non-functional finished product. Therefore, the Popat references teach away from printing an image that traverses the weakened portion of a printing paper.

Claim 29

With respect to claim 29, the Examiner, in the Final Office Action, states that "the primary reference Popat teaches paper stock which is inherently configured for use with a sublimation type heat transfer recording device." Final Office Action at page 4. Appellant, again, disagrees.

The Examiner has not pointed to any disclosure in support of his position regarding inherency. Moreover, even if Popat did disclose paper stock which is inherently configured for use with a sublimation type heat transfer recording device, the Examiner cannot reconcile the fact that Stewart clearly *teaches away* from such printer, which cannot be used to print on edible paper. *The applied references must be considered as a whole*, and the Examiner cannot selectively lift a single feature from one reference to the exclusion of the remaining teachings of that reference.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popat '837 (or Popat '683), in view of Stewart and Shingu.

Claim 18

In rejecting claim 18 in view of Popat '837 in view of Stewart and Shingu et al. the grounds of rejection state:

As outlined in the above rejections, Popat and Stewart teach all the claimed steps, including the step of providing a printing paper with a printing material, a base material, an adhesive layer, as illustrated in Figure 4. In fact, Popat and Stewart teach all the claimed steps except for setting a predetermined value for the sum of a thickness of printing paper, and the setting of a predetermined value for nipping pressure at which margins are nipped by the conveying device. Shingu et al. teaches a web-conveying device that conveys a web in a similar manner as taught by Popat. Shingu et al. teaches in column 12 lines 63, the setting of predetermined nipping pressure for predetermined thickness of sheets. To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use predetermined values as taught by Shingu et al., in the process of Popat in view of Stewart, in order to have different nip pressures based on different thickness, as taught by Shingu et al. in column 12 lines 63-65.

Office Action at page 4.

Claim 18 recites that a "predetermined value is set for the nipping pressure at which the margins are nipped by the conveying device." Shingu teaches a method and apparatus for preparing fiber-reinforced laminated sheets (col. 1, lines 5-10). In the formation process, a stacked assembly, comprising cut sheets, continuous sheets and webs, are joined into an integral unit under pressure (col. 12, lines 48-62). The nip pressure varies with the matrix resin, thickness and volume of the reinforcing resins (col. 12, lines 63-65).

Appellants submit that the purpose of the nip pressure is for the formation of a laminated sheet and not related to the conveyance of the web as contended by the Examiner. Therefore, the

Examiner's proffered reason is not supported in the prior art. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner.

In addition, Appellants submit that Shingu is non-analogous art since it relates to the formation of laminated sheets which is unrelated to the conveying of printing paper in a printer.

Further, because Shingu does not cure the deficient teachings of Popat '683 (or Popat '837) and Stewart with respect to the features described above with respect to claim 17, Appellant submits that claim 24 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 17.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Popat '837 in view of Stewart and Bishop.

Claim 24

Because claim 24 recites features similar to those described above with respect to claim 23 and Bishop does not cure the deficient teachings of Popat '837 and Stewart with respect to these features, Appellant submits that claim 24 is patentable for at least reasons similar to those given above with respect to claim 23.

In addition, because Bishop does not cure the deficient teachings of Popat '683 (or Popat '837) and Stewart with respect to the features described above with respect to claim 17, Appellant submits that claim 24 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 17.

Claim 26

With respect to claim 26, the grounds of rejection state:

Popat in view of Stewart teaches all the claimed steps except for a second printing paper comprising a base material and an adhesive as outlined. Bishop et al. teaches the use of a plurality of the sheets illustrated in Figure 2. Each additional sheet meets the requirements of a second sheet as outlined. As stated above, To

one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious to use the sheet material of Bishop et al., as a receiver in the method of Popat in view of Stewart, in order to provide sheet stock which may easily be used to produce business cards, party invitations, and file cards.

Final Office Action at pages 5-6. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

In rejecting claim 26, the Examiner ignores an important limitation. Claim 26 requires a substantially equal constant overall thickness for *both* first and second printing papers, *with at least two layers of the first printing paper each having a substantially different thickness from the corresponding layers of the second printing paper*, regardless of the printing application.

Providing a substantially equal overall thickness ensures that the nipping pressure on the printing papers remains constant. As a result, the printing papers are smoothly and reliably conveyed.

See Appellant's Specification at page 13. This relative difference in *layer* thickness also provides the distinct advantage that one printing paper may provide prints that are thin, non-bulky and easy to carry, while the other printing paper may provide prints that are thick, strong, and less likely to be damaged. *See* Appellant's Specification at page 14.

Bishop is *silent* with respect to the provision of multiple stocks of recording material, each having three layers and an *overall same thickness*, with at least two layers in one stock having *different thicknesses* from the corresponding layers in the other stock. Rather, Bishop et al. merely sets a *range* for the overall thickness of a composite sheet, but makes no disclosure of having sheets of different stock with the same overall thickness and different layer thicknesses.

In addition, because Bishop does not cure the deficient teachings of Popat '683 (or Popat '837) and Stewart with respect to the features described above with respect to claim 17, Appellant submits that claim 24 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 17.

In response to the above arguments filed in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, the Examiner issued an Advisory Action (paper no. 20040526) in which he states “it is the examiner’s position that the rejection of independent claim 17 is proper, establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness.” The Examiner does not provide any additional reasoning for his rejection of claim 17 (or any of the dependent claims) nor did the Examiner provide any substantive arguments to rebut the above arguments.

Therefore, in summary, Appellant submits that the Examiner has not made a *prima facie* case for obviousness because the combination of Popat ‘683 (or Popat ‘837) with Stewart is not supported in the prior art for at least the reasons given above. “The mere fact that that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination.” MPEP at page 2100-131. Accordingly, Appellant submits that claim 17 is patentable over the cited art (alone or in combination). Also, since Bishop and Shingu do not provide a motivation or suggestion for combining Stewart with either of the Popat references, Appellant submits that the remaining claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 17.

Unless a check is submitted herewith for the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2), please charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Raja Saliba
Registration No. 43,078

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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23373
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VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

CLAIMS 17-29 ON APPEAL:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

17. A method for printing an image on a printing paper by a printer, comprising the steps of:

accommodating a printing paper in an accommodating portion;

conveying the printing paper from said accommodating portion to a recording device by a conveying device by nipping margins of the printing paper;

printing an image on the printing paper by the recording device;

conveying the printing paper from the recording device to a discharging portion by the conveying device by nipping margins of the printing paper; and

discharging the printing paper with the image printed thereon to the discharging portion,

wherein the printing paper includes at least one printing portion and the margins, and a print is formed by detaching the at least one printing portion from the printing paper after the printing paper with the image printed thereon is discharged to the discharging portion; and

wherein the step of conveying the printing paper from the accommodating portion to the recording device is performed by nipping the printing paper at substantially spaced apart locations so as to avoid nipping the at least one printing portion of the printing paper.

18. A method according to claim 17, wherein, by setting a predetermined value for the sum of a thickness of a printing material, a thickness of a base material, and a thickness of an adhesive layer, a predetermined value is set for the nipping pressure at which the margins are nipped by the conveying device.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the recording device is set to print an image on the at least one printing portion of the printing paper, and the margins allow for errors generated when the recording device prints an image on the printing paper.

20. A method according to claim 17, wherein the margins are provided along a direction in which the conveying device conveys the printing paper.

21. The method according to claim 17, wherein the step of conveying the printing paper from the recording device to the discharging portion is performed by nipping the printing paper at substantially spaced apart locations so as to avoid nipping the image receiving portion of the printing paper.

22. The method according to claim 17, wherein the steps of conveying the printing paper from said accommodating portion to the recording device and from the recording device to the discharging portion are performed by nipping the printing paper only in the margins so as to avoid nipping the image receiving portion of the printing paper.

23. The method according to claim 17, wherein the printing paper that is conveyed comprises:

at least one intermittent cut line in which a plurality of cut portions and a plurality of separating portions separating the plurality of cut portions are alternately formed; the at least one intermittent cut line is formed along only one direction of the printing paper that is orthogonal to a conveying direction of the printing paper within the recording device; and

a continuous cut line extending in a longitudinal direction of the printing paper and orthogonal to the at least one intermittent cut line.

24. The method according to claim 17, wherein the printing paper that is conveyed comprises:

 a printing material having a printing portion;

 a base material for supporting the printing material; and

 an adhesive layer that removably adheres the printing material to the base material, the adhesive layer having substantially no adhesive strength remaining on the printing portion after the printing portion is detached from the printing material;

 wherein the printing portion is detached from the printing material so as to form a finished print;

 wherein the at least one printing portion is defined by at least one intermittent cut line in which a plurality of cut portions and a plurality of separating portions separating the plurality of cut portions are alternately formed; and wherein the at least one intermittent cut line is formed along only one direction of the printing paper that is orthogonal to a conveying direction of the printing paper within the recording device and extends substantially along an entire side of the printing portion;

 wherein the printing portion is further defined by a continuous cut line penetrating the printing material and extending in a longitudinal direction of the printing paper, orthogonal to the at least one intermittent cut line, and substantially along another entire side of the printing portion;

wherein the continuous cut line and the at least one cut line do not cut through the base material, and the at least one printing portion is detached from the printing material along the at least one intermittent cut line and the continuous cut line; and

wherein the printing paper is an individual sheet configured to be fed in a printer, the printer being for print media that are individually fed in the printer.

25. The method according to claim 17, wherein the printing paper is a first printing paper, and the method further comprises the steps of:

accommodating a second printing paper in the accommodating portion;

conveying the second printing paper from the accommodating portion to the recording device by the conveying device by nipping margins of the second printing paper;

printing a second image on the second printing paper by the recording device;

conveying the second printing paper from the recording device to the discharging portion by the conveying device by nipping margins of the second printing paper; and

discharging the second printing paper with the second image printed thereon to the discharging portion,

wherein the second printing paper includes at least one printing portion and respective margins, and a second print is formed by detaching the at least one printing portion from the second printing paper after the second printing paper with the second image printed thereon is discharged to the discharging portion; and

wherein the step of conveying the second printing paper from the accommodating portion to the recording device is performed by nipping the second printing paper at substantially spaced

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apart locations so as to avoid nipping the at least one printing portion of the second printing paper.

26. The method according to claim 25, wherein

the first printing paper comprises a first base material layer, a first adhesive layer, and a first printing material layer;

the second printing paper comprises a second base material layer, a second adhesive layer, and a second printing material layer; and

wherein the overall thickness of the first printing paper is substantially equal to that of the second printing paper, with at least two layers of the first printing paper each having a substantially different thickness than the corresponding layers of the second printing paper.

27. The method according to claim 23, wherein the recording device prints an image on the at least one printing portion of the printing paper, such that the printed image traverses at least one of the intermittent cut line and the continuous cut line.

28. The method according to claim 17, wherein the printed image is a photograph.

29. The method according to claim 17, wherein the printing paper is configured for use with a sublimation type heat transfer system recording device.

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VIII. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE